

# STATE CAPITAL NEWS

- Thinks System Best
- Pearson on Board
- Many Tourists Due

By A. L. LINDBECK

Salem.—The PWA grant of \$450,000 for new state buildings does not limit the program to a single structure, in the opinion of Ralph Moody, legal advisor for the Capitol Reconstruction commission which has charge of the building program. There is nothing either in the state law appropriating \$550,000 toward new buildings or in the federal grant to prevent the construction of a library building and an office building as two separate structures, if the Capitol commission finds such a plan preferable, according to Moody.

Moody points out, however that the PWA grant is not a definite commitment of the full \$450,000. The grant money will only be paid to the state as it is shown that money has been paid to labor taken from the relief rolls. Officials who have investigated the situation however find no cause for worry on this score as no difficulty is anticipated in finding plenty of skilled as well as unskilled labor on the relief rolls who will be available for work on the new state building or buildings.

Governor Martin's suggestion that the state library be shelved on the top floor of the new office building has brought a veritable deluge of protest. Friends of the library call attention to the fact that the state appropriation was made by the recent session primarily for the benefit of the library which, they insist, should have first consideration in the new building program.

It may be only a case wherein distance lends enchantment but in any event it appears that those who live on the other side of the globe have a better opinion of the Oregon system than do a lot of those who live under that system. At least Mr. J. H. Penniket of Hamilton, New Zealand, thinks that "Oregon's political system is the best in the world." In a letter to Secretary of State Snell, Mr. Penniket who is a member of the New Zealand parliament, seeks information regarding Oregon's initiative and referendum and other legislative reforms in effect in this state.

"I have been told that the Oregon political system is the best in the world, that your members of parliament are still free and responsible to their constituents only, and that the people still retain effective control over their politicians not merely at election time but in between elections as well," Mr. Penniket writes.

Work on the new 50-bed pavilion for the eastern Oregon tuberculosis hospital at The Dalles and a nurses' home at the eastern Oregon state hospital at Pendleton will be started at once without waiting for federal funds the board of control has announced. Funds for the two projects, totalling \$120,000 were appropriated by the recent legislative session. Application will be made for PWA funds and if the application is approved the federal funds will be used in off-setting the state's appropriation.

Appointment of Walter E. Pearson to a place on the state board of higher education marks the second Democratic state senator to receive official recognition since the recent session adjourned. Wm. Strayer of Baker was appointed to a place on the state mining board. Pearson succeeds to the post left vacant by B. F. Irvine's refusal to accept reappointment.

Floyd L. Utter has reconsidered his intention to resign from the state parole board and will remain. His reconsideration, he said, was in compliance with Governor Martin's insistence that he continue to serve. Utter and W. H. Treece both resigned from the parole board following the close of the legislative session in protest against the adverse action on their parole reform program. Treece has since been appointed to the state board of arbitra-

tion while Lotus Langley of Portland has been named to fill his place on the parole board.

Prospects are for a record crop for the Grim Reaper on Oregon's highways this year. At least the year has started out like a record breaker. The first three months accounted for a total of 63 fatalities as a result of traffic accidents, topping the 1936 figures by eight. Traffic accidents for the three month period totalled 8210 compared to 6177 for the same period last year with 1313 persons suffering injuries this year to 1238 last year.

Linden McCullough, the new superintendent of the Blind Trade school in Portland has announced a new sales policy for the school. Blind salesmen will be taken off the streets and brooms and other products of the institution will be sold through established wholesale concerns.

A material decrease in Oregon's general relief load is reported by Elmer Goudy, relief administrator. The number of persons receiving relief was reduced from 50,842 in February to 45,967 in March. Of \$494,593 paid out by the state relief commission during March, Goudy reports, 45.1 percent went for general relief, 53.1 percent for old age pensions and 1.1 percent for blind assistance.

Although C. A. Howard's resignation as superintendent of public instruction does not take effect until September 1, Governor Martin is expected to name Howard's successor within the next few weeks just to get the matter settled and relieve the pressure that is now being brought to bear on him by the numerous candidates for Howard's job and their friends. Such a deluge of letters has been received by the governor containing endorsements of candidates that he has found it impossible to answer them all.

Oregon is in for the biggest tourist crop in its history, in the opinion of Secretary of State Snell. He bases his opinion on foreign registrations which show that 19,029 out-of-state cars visited Oregon during the first four months of the year, compared to only 14,891 during the same period last year. Snell predicts an even greater proportionate increase in tourist traffic for the remainder of the year, when the balmy breezes that blow over the Pacific Northwest from the ocean will begin to lure the vacationists from the sweltering east and middle-west, not to mention California.

No logging, milling or other industrial operations may be carried on in Oregon's forested areas after May 15 without a permit, according to J. W. Ferguson, state forester. Permits for slash burnings will also become necessary after that date. Under an act of the last legislature the closed season will extend to December 31 hereafter, with the governor empowered to lift the restriction at any time that weather conditions warrant.

The interim committee which will make a study of revenue legislation for the benefit of the next session is composed of the following members: Chas. V. Galloway, chairman of the state tax commission; H. C. Herron of Corvallis, county judge of Benton county; Gust Anderson and B. T. McBain of Portland; Representatives Roy Carter of Gold Beach, Ralph Stevenson of Medford and Carl Engdahl of Pendleton. Appointment of the committee was authorized by the recent session.

If you are a beer drinker and your next glass of suds shows signs of shrinkage don't blame the liquor control commission. A. K. McMahan, chairman of that commission, denies any responsibility whatever for the recent decision of the Oregon Food and Beverage Dispensers association to reduce the size of the 10-cent glass from 12 ounces to 10 ounces.

## WALKING INTO TROUBLE.

Nearly 150 Oregonians jaywalked their way to death last year, Oregon State Motor association statistics state. The guilty 150 who paid for their folly with their lives found death when they either crossed at an intersection against the signal, or merely walked in the roadway.

## Unified Contacts Plan Aids Oregon Students

Oregon high school students are the only ones in the United States who enjoy the advantages of a unified plan of visitation by representatives of the state supported colleges and universities, according to the annual report of the State Committee on High School contacts recently submitted by E. L. Lemon of Corvallis, chairman.

The plan, which is now in its third year of successful operation, provides a means whereby students who plan to go on to college may learn the essential facts about all of the higher educational opportunities free from biased presentation by those representing only one institution.

Under the present plan no representative of any institution is allowed to make a lecture appearance in any high school except upon invitation of the school, which in turn must pay the expense. The centralized contacts committee, on the other hand, supervises the activities of a full time high school visitor, who goes from school to school giving complete and unbiased explanations of the offerings of the six institutions in the Oregon state system of higher education. Dr. D. V. Poling, long a resident of Oregon, but later of New Jersey, has filled this position since it was created.

The central contacts committee also provides a counseling service committee, which aids the schools in

carrying on modern educational guidance programs to assist students in determining the kind of college training best suited to their needs and future aspirations.

Instead of being controlled exclusively by the state system of higher education, the contacts committee consists also of representatives of the state department of education and the official organizations of the secondary schools, the report explains.

Present members of the central committee are E. B. Lemon, registrar at O. S. C., chairman; E. M. Pallett, registrar at U. of O.; J. A. Churchill, representing the normal schools; C. A. Howard, state superintendent of public instruction; Jas. L. Turnbull, president of the Association of City Superintendents; and T. R. Fowler, president of the High School Principals' association. The work of the committee has been enthusiastically endorsed by the high school principals' and superintendents' associations, Mr. Lemon's report shows.

## COLLISIONS TAKE HIGH TOLL.

More than one-third of all motor car fatalities result from collisions, according to Oregon State Motor association figures. About 17 per cent of the deaths are from collisions between two cars; 20 per cent are collisions between a motor vehicle and some fixed object.

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## State Planning Aided by Libraries

Public libraries as universal educational institutions can now promote the study of Oregon's resources and their conservation and use it was pointed out by C. W. Reynolds, executive assistant of the Oregon state planning board, at the librarians conference held at Arlington, May 12. This conference, one of a series to discuss library problems, was held under the direction of Miss Harriet M. Long, state librarian.

Mr. Reynolds who spoke at the noon luncheon described reports and research projects made by the state board and told the librarians how they could obtain material for distribution. He also presented an exhibit of planning board work.

"Because of the present strong emphasis upon adult education there are increasing demands that the public library shall assume more responsibility as an educational institution," Mr. Reynolds said. "The libraries can be useful instruments in spreading information relative to Oregon's resources and the problems growing out of the use of these resources."

Mr. Reynolds is in charge of educational work for the state planning board and is regarded as an excellent public speaker with a good knowledge of his subject.

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